

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Saturday, January 27. 1711.

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**C**arrying on the War now is the Word — We are Defeated in Spain — And too much Time the Enemy has before them, to be Improving that Advantage; what lengths they will run, or what Defence King *Charles* and his broken Forces may, or can make, no guess can be made of, at this distance — We have yet no certain Account of Things, and to determine one Way or other, would be an Arrogance I shall not be Guilty of; but I'll take it both Ways, and either shall more than sufficiently make good my Argument, and stand firm to detect the General Practice of the People I am opposing.

1. *Take it as you hope*, or as your most favourable Accounts relate it, King *Charles* must then be Encourag'd to maintain his Ground, and expect Relief from his Friends, that he may not be beaten out of his Hold, and forc'd to abandon the Advantages he has obtain'd, for want of Relief.
2. *Take it as you fear*, yet you must not be discourag'd, the War must not be given over — We are in the War as if it were but just now begun, we must not give it over in its beginning, let the People that manage it do as they

they will, the War must be carried on, the Quarrel must be pursu'd, the Enemy must be push'd to the last Gasps; no Arms can be laid down, no Agreement can be made without Honourable Conditions, and the Time of the Enemies Advantages, is not a Time to expect those Conditions.

Mismanagements of this War in Time pass'd, is now before us; where it lies I know not, I shall be glad to have every Bodies Mismanagements discover'd; but while we are divided in Counsel, it will always be Mismanagement; while some are for the War especially in *Spain*, and some especially else where, I expect nothing but Mismanagement, and with Mismanagement, nothing but Miscarriage. — How should Success join, where Endeavours do not? For my part, I think truly we are but contending for an Occasion which some seek, of carrying on the War especially *nowhere*; If the Allies were but resolute to the Work, and carry it on heartily and in earnest somewhere; I would not dispute the Case of Where and by what Means; let it but be especially somewhere, — I am satisfy'd the French Interest must sink under it.

If the War be earnestly pursu'd, and especially carry'd on but in any one Place in *Europe*, wherever the whole Confederacy bends its Strength, there the Enemy must give way, for it is apparent, they cannot Resist the Superiority of your Strength; but while we dispute these Niceties, we really join with those, who would not have it carried on at all. — I grant, *Spain* for the Center of our Efforts, seems to be Circumstanc'd with insuperable Difficulties.

— And I own, I never thought it the Place, for this War to be finish'd in; but if our People will carry it on there, they must

— And how must it be done? If you send small Armies, says one, they are lost, if you send great ones they will be starv'd; little Reliefs serve but to protract the Affair, ruin the Design, exhaust the Fund, and teach the Enemy to fight; this has been indeed too dearly Experienc'd.

Well, if you will send great Armies, What remains? — The Enemies will send great Armies there also — That is, in short, the Seat of the War is actually remov'd from *Flanders*, from *Italy*, from the *Rhine*, to *Spain*.

How much easier, how much sooner, how much cheaper, *France* can be in the Field there, than the Confederates? How hard, how tedious, how uncertain Intelligence is to be had of what happens? How much better the *French* agree with that Climate than our Men? In short, what Disadvantages we must fight with, THERE, more than elsewhere — All these Things I leave out of my Argument, because if it must be done, I am not for Discouraging Things; if Arguments could yet prevail to alter the Resolutions of those that direct these Things, I would be very pressing, and could lay some Things down to support my Importunities, which the World has not yet been very forward to Enquire into; but, since the *Dye is cast*, the *Subicon* pass'd over, and the Thing determin'd, both by Parliament and Queen, I have too much Concern for the General Interest, to go about heaping of Difficulties, when they tend to nothing but to Discourage the People. — If the Thing must be done, we must do it in the best manner we can — Tho' dear, tho' difficult, tho' bloody; this War must be carried on, *Spain* must be reduc'd, *France* must be humbled; 'tis to no purpose to be Discourag'd, to sink our Spirits, and sink our Credit, and slack our Hands, these are but encreasing the Burthen, heaping up Difficulties, and making it the longer a doing: If we must have the Work to do, Why must we make it harder to do than it is? — My Word for it, there are Difficulties enough to grapple with, whenever we go about it.

I observe now, there are great Enquiries about Mismanagements and Miscarriages; I wish these People that are now for carrying on the War in *Spain*, more especially than elsewhere, would remember to forget past Miscarriages, that time to come may forget to remember those that are to come;




come; for my part, I must needs acknowledge, I believe those that will pursue this War, will do their utmost, and perhaps may discharge themselves well; *Englishmen, Britains, and Germans*, seldom behave ill in the Field; but *Starembergh* is oblig'd to Retreat, tho' no Man blames his Conduct, *Stanbope* is taken in *Bribeuga*, no Man blames his Defence; *Madrid* is a second Time abandon'd, *Sarragossa* quitted, all *Castile*, New and Old, *Aragon* and *Valentia* retir'd from, under all the good Conduct in the World; but if there is any Mismanagement, the Error lies in the first Concoction, and such are not to be remedied in the Second. But the Word is given, in *Spain* the War is to be pursued, then let it be done Chearfully and Vigorously, or it will never be done Effectually, for you have a Vigorous Enemy to contend with, that is never discourag'd by Losses, despirited by frequent Defeats, and will never give over this War, while he has any Advantage to lay hold on.

And now tho' my Opinion is thus against the Scheme, yet just in the War as in Credit, I cannot help saying this, God forbid, tho' I do not applaud the Method, I should

attempt to Discourage the War in General; No, no, wherever we fight, let us do it thoroughly, the Enemy may be beaten any where, if by halves we go about it no where.

They are mistaken that say, the Whigs would rather have the Enemy Conquer, than that the War should not be carried on by such Persons, and in such Places as they like; No, no, Gentlemen, tho' a small deal of Prophecie might foretell your want of Success in some Cases, yet mistake me not, the Success will be so acceptable, let who will be Instrumental, that no Honest Man can rejoice in the Miscarriage; and tho' I hardly dare suggest much Success in some People's Schemes, and were I to resume the little Gift of Prophecy I have laid Claim to, I could not say much to their Encouragement; yet such is the Danger of a Miscarriage, such is the fatal Consequence of the Success of *France*, that I must even join in an Old Spanish Proverb, which I learn't, when I liv'd in that Country: *Let the Cure be wrought, tho' the Devil be the Doctor.*

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A D V E R

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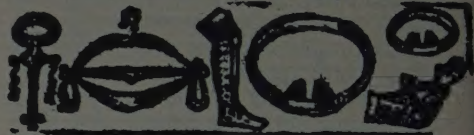
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